

Application No. 10/604,531
Docket No. H-205829-div
Amendment dated June 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

Tooling 10 for a fiber preforming process is represented in Figure 1, along with a fiber preform 12 produced with the tooling 10. The tooling 10 is represented as a perforated screen of the type used in directed fiber preforming processes, in which reinforcement fibers, e.g., glass fibers, are sprayed or otherwise deposited on the ~~convex~~ tooling surface 14 of the screen tooling 10, and thereafter held on the tooling surface 14 by a vacuum drawn through the tooling 10 from the opposite ~~concave~~ side 16 of the tooling 10. The thickness and uniformity of the layer of fibers on the tooling 10 will depend in part on the shape of the tooling surface 14, the vacuum, and the physical properties of the fibers. A binder is coated on the fibers prior to deposition, or simultaneously sprayed with the fibers onto the tooling surface 14, or sprayed on the fibers while the fibers are held on the tooling 10 under vacuum. According to one known technique, the screen tooling 10 with the mass of fibers held at its surface 14 is then rotated into an oven where the binder is cured, yielding the porous

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fiber preform 12 whose shape corresponds to the surface 14 of the tooling 10. Thereafter, the fiber preform 12 is removed from the screen tooling 10 and placed in a suitable mold 18, which is represented in Figure 2. A resin is injected into the mold 18 to infiltrate the preform 12. The resin-impregnated fiber preform 12 is then heated to cure the resin and thereby yield the desired fiber-reinforced article. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that Figures 1 and 2 are merely for illustrative purposes, in that the shape of the tooling 10, and therefore the shape of the preform 12, can differ significantly from that shown.

Please replace the paragraph in the Abstract of the Disclosure with the amended paragraph submitted herewith on a separate sheet pursuant to 37 CFR 1.72.